

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08974 221712Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-07 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /023 W  
----- 095073 /60 S

R 221652Z DEC 76  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2586  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8974

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, LE  
SUBJECT: CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH

REF: BEIRUT 8968

1. AT DINNER AT MICHEL KHOURY'S IN JOUNIEH DEC 18, KHOURY TOLD ME THAT BISHOP KHOURY (MARONITE) OF TYRE WAS VERY CONCERNED ABOUT CONDITIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON. KHOURY WAS THERE BRIEFLY AFTER MY ARRIVAL.
2. THE BISHOP MAINTAINED THERE WAS NO LAW AND ORDER IN THE SOUTH AND CONDITIONS WERE DETERIORATING WITH KILLINGS AND KIDNAPPING INCREASING. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD SECURED THE RELEASE OF A NUMBER OF MARONITES KIDNAPPED, A NUMBER HAD BEEN KILLED. HE WANTED SOME KIND OF FORCE THERE THAT COULD MAINTAIN ORDER. HE MAINTAINED THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE OF NO HELP AS THE PALESTINIANS USED THEIR ACTIVITY AS A PRETEXT FOR TAKING ACTION AGAINST THE MARONITES.
3. I SUBSEQUENTLY ASKED DR. BULLE OF ICRC ABOUT CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTH. HE HAD JUST BEEN DOWN IN THE REGION. HE THOUGHT THAT KHOURY'S ACCOUNT WAS SOMEWHAT OVERDRAWN, BUT NOT COMPLETELY.

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4. FUAD BOUTROS, MINISTER FOREIGN AFFAIRS, WHO WAS SOLE OTHER DINNER GUEST AT MICHEL KHOURY'S DID NOT RAISE THE PROBLEM OF THE SOUTH EXCEPT TO UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE OF A RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM. HE WAS AWARE OF MY CONVERSATION WITH SARKIS (BEIRUT 8827).

5. COMMENT: REPORTS OF BISHOP KHOURY AND DR. BULLE POINT  
UP BURDEN FOR SARKIS CREATED BY ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE ON  
QUESTION OF LIMITED ASF TROOPS IN SOUTH.  
HOUGHTON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** PINS, LE, (KHOURY, MICHEL)  
**To:** STATE  
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